

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/871,250**  
Reply to Office Action of **January 14, 2004**

**REMARKS**

Claim 9 has been amended by incorporating claim 1 therein, in order to more particularly point out, and distinctly claim the subject matter to which the applicants regard as their invention. This claim, in independent form, was indicated as allowable. The applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added.

The only claims rejected on prior art, Claims 1, 3-6 and 8, have been cancelled.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 9 and 11-14, as amended, are believed to be in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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